

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 04275 291358Z
ACTION SIG-03

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FI CHANNEL

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ASIGN, YE
SUBJECT: POST MEMORANDUM FOR SANA 1978 INSPECTION

1. A GOOD STARTING POINT FOR IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS OF SANA IN 1978 WOULD BE THE UNACCOMPLISHED INSPECTION RECOMMENDATIONS OF 1976.

2. THE INSPECTORS OF 1976 PRODUCED TEN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT (RATHER THEN POST) ACTION. ABOUT HALF COULD NOW BE SAID TO HAVE COME TO PASS. WE NOW HAVE, THAT IS, A \$500,000 IMET PROGRAM, A NEW AID STRATEGY, A SECOND C&R POSITION AND VISITS BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER ONCE A QUARTER. SINCE JUNE OF 1978 WE HAVE HAD THE ATTENTION OF THE DESK AND EVEN A DIALOGUE.

3. HOWEVER, NO AMERICAN HELP HAS MATERIALIZED, AS RECOMMENDED IN 1976, FOR OUR B&F SECTION. WE DO NOT HAVE THE COMMERCIAL OFFICER WHO WAS RECOMMENDED NOR HAVE WE HAD ANY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AS OUTLINED IN THE INSPECTION REPORT FOR THE POLITICAL ECONOMIC SLOT. CU EXCHANGE GRANTS HAVE REMAINED THE SAME. NEA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE DEPARTMENT REFUSED TO ALLOCATE EVEN ONE OF THE 8 LOCAL SLOTS RECOMMENDED FOR SANA EVEN THOUGH, THROUGHOUT NEA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE INSPECTORS RECOMMENDED ONLY 14 NEW LOCAL SLOTS IN ALL.

4. THESE PROBLEMS REMAIN AREAS OF EMBASSY CONCERN BUT THEY ARE DWARFED AT THE MOMENT BY ANOTHER ISSUE WHICH HAS THE POWER TO AFFECT THE EXCELLENT AND STEADILY IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE YAR AND THE US: ARMS

SUPPLY. AS THIS ISSUE IS MASSIVELY DISCUSSED IN THE CABLE TRAFFIC AFTER THE JUNE CHIEF OF STATE ASSASSINATION IN SANA AND IS REPORTEDLY BEING CONSIDERED AT AN AUGUST 29 NSC MEETING ON YEMEN, I LEAVE IT TO THE INSPECTORS IN WASHINGTON, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIRECTORATE, TO FORM OPINIONS ABOUT THIS VOLATILE AND COMPLICATED ISSUE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF A CONDUCT-OF-RELATIONS INSPECTION.

5. IT ALSO IS IMPORTANT, IN THE INSPECTION WHICH IS FORTH-COMING, TO LOOK ONCE AGAIN AT THE ISSUES WE RAISED IN OUR POST MEMORANDUM FOR THE 1976 INSPECTION IN THE MATTER OF ARMS COORDINATION WITH THE SAUDIS. THE MATTER HAS, IN A PRACTICAL SENSE, IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY ONLY IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, ALTHOUGH SOME MARGINAL IMPROVEMENT OCCURRED EARLIER. THIS ISSUE IS CENTRAL TO OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE OUR MOST BASIC INTERESTS IN YEMEN AND, OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, HAS GENERALLY WORKED BADLY.

6. ANOTHER PROGRAM WHICH HAS FALLEN FAR SHORT OF OUR HOPES IS THE USE OF MILITARY IMET AND THE INSPECTORS ARE INVITED TO LOOK AT BOTH THE REASONS AND THE SOLUTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN FOUND FOR THIS PROBLEM.

7. I ALSO WANT TO SIGNAL IN ADVANCE THE FAILURE OF THIS EMBASSY TO PERFORM UP TO ITS OWN GOALS OR THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFFAIRS. THIS IS THE AREA OF THE MOST SERIOUS REGRET FOR ME, LOOKING BACK OVER THE THREE YEARS PLUS I HAVE SERVED HERE. IT IS AN AMALGAM OF ISSUES: STAFFING PATTERNS, SET BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE NATURE OF THE JOB ON THE GROUND, THE PARTICULAR PERSONS ASSIGNED TO THE TASKS IN SANA. AS I MARKED THE REPORT OF THE FSO WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO ECONOMIC (AS WELL AS CONSULAR) WORK AS NOT MEETING REQUIRED STANDARDS, THE INSPECTION SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE OER'S PREPARED ON OFFICERS IN THIS AREA.

8. IN CONNECTION WITH THE LATTER, I REQUEST THE MOST SEARCHING EXAMINATION OF THE WORK LOAD AND PERFORMANCE IN THE CONSULAR SECTION.

9. I ALSO WANT TO NOTE THAT OUR SECURITY PROGRAM ALL BUT LAPSED AFTER THE SY POSITION WAS ABOLISHED BUT, WITH THE ASSIGNMENT IN JULY OF A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER WHO HAS AMPLE SY EXPERIENCE, THIS SITUATION MAY IMPROVE.

10. AS I WILL NOT BE AT POST WHEN THE INSPECTION OCCURS --A NEW DCM ARRIVES WITHIN A WEEK AND AN AMBASSADOR TO END MY FIVE-MONTH SOJOURN AS CHARGE ARRIVES AT THE END

OF SEPTEMBER--I FEEL I HAVE A SPECIAL FREEDOM AND VANTAGE TO MENTION THE FAILURES ABOVE AND THE ACHIEVEMENT WHICH FOLLOW.

11. MORALE IS EXCELLENT, PARTICULARLY IF ONE CONSIDERS THAT THIS POST IS THE MOST ISOLATED AND BACKWARDS OF ANY IN NEA AND, PERHAPS IN THE WORLD. OFFICERS AND STAFF ARE FOR THE MOST PART SERVING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR POSITIONS AND FEEL THEIR JOBS PROVIDE THEM WITH GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING. THEY ALSO THINK THAT WHAT THEY DO MATTERS, HAS AN IMPACT. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES APPEAR TO BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD AND, FOR THE MOST PART, ENTHUSIASTICALLY PURSUED. SHARING OF INFORMATION AND MUTUAL SUPPORT BY DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE EMBASSY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS EXCELLENT. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS ARE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY BY MYSELF AND SECTION HEADS AND FELT GENERALLY TO BE FAIR AND AS FULL AS POSSIBLE. PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS ARE EXCELLENT. THE OER PROCEDURE IS RESPECTED. THE STATE ROLE IN THE OVERSIGHT OF OTHER AGENCIES AND ALL PERSONNEL IS WELL-DEVELOPED AND UNQUESTIONED. IN EVERY AREA OF ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORT, GREAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS AND WELL-CONCEIVED NEW STARTS ARE BEING MADE IN THE MATTER OF RENTAL PROPERTY, AN EMBASSY COMPOUND AND POSSIBLY A NEW RESIDENCE. THE EMBASSY HAS WITNESSED A CONSIDERABLE ACHIEVEMENT IN THE LOCAL SCHOOL AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION. FINALLY, THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED ACCOLADES FOR ITS POLITICAL AND INTELLIGENCE REPORTING.

12. BETWEEN THE TIME AMBASSADOR LANE ARRIVES (20 SEPTEMBER) AND THE 1978 INSPECTION (18 OCTOBER) A NEW POST MEMORANDUM WILL BE PREPARED. IT WILL BE MORE DETAILED THAN THE ABOVE AND, IN ADDITION, WILL BEAR THE STAMP OF THE NEW TEAM.
RANSOM

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